

MARTIN,
TENNESSEE

THE PACER

Editorial

Students were gone
for a month, but work
continued

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PACERBRIEFS

Uncle Sam's
bill collector

Our guest
columnist gives her
take on the taxing
April affair.

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iPods, Sci-fi
and Cowboys

What you might
have missed over
the break.

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Holiday Hoops

Several big games
for the Skyhawk
squads, more
upcoming.

— Page 7

PACERF.Y.I.

When
will I get
my
refund
check?

date	last initial
Wed., Jan. 18	A, B, E, F, G, J, L, M, O, S, T
Thurs., Jan. 19	C, D, H, I, K, N, P, Q, R, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
Fri., Jan. 20	A-Z

Source: UTM Business Affairs

LOCALWEATHER

Tuesday	44	☁
Rain / Snow Shwrs.	27	☁
Wednesday	48	☁
Mostly Sunny	36	☁
Thursday	56	☁
Mostly Sunny	45	☁
Friday	55	☁
Few Showers	41	☁
Saturday	51	☁
Partly Cloudy	32	☁

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— Free in single copy —

Griffin out, Simpson in as Skyhawks head coach

Matt Griffin leads football team to best start in over a decade, leaves to coach Murray State Racers

Staff Reports

Jason Simpson, a former UT Chattanooga assistant coach, has been named the new head coach of the Skyhawk football team after a search process was conducted.

The search came about when Matt Griffin resigned in December to accept the head coaching position at Murray State University, Murray, Ky.

"UTM is appreciative of what Coach Griffin did to bring us a winning season," said UTM Chancellor Nick Dunagan. "We intend to build on the success that Griffin achieved. "Coach Griffin is appreciative of the opportunity UTM gave him to become

a head coach."

Five of six assistant coaches have also resigned. The only remaining coach on the UTM staff is defensive coach Dwayne Wilmot.

Griffin said he accepted the Murray State job because it would benefit his family and assistant coaches financially.

"We did talk about increasing his (Griffin's) salary and the assistants' salaries," Dunagan said.

Griffin's base salary was \$77,464. After the 2004 season, Griffin's contract was extended through the 2007 season.

— See 'Griffin Leaves' on Page 7



Murray State Sports Information

Matt Griffin at his inaugural press conference after being hired at Murray State.

Academics

Grades continue rise for athletics, greeks

Kevin Teets
Senior Reporter

Fall 2006 By the Numbers

UTM students seem to be hitting the books more these days.

Grades released by the Office of Greek Life show academic improvements in the all male average, all female average, and the all greek average for both fraternities and sororities.

Sigma Chi placed first among the fraternities this semester and Chi Omega placed first among the sororities. Finishing in second place this semester for the fraternities was Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Alpha Delta Pi finished second among the sororities.

Sigma Chi President Adam Francis says grades increased for his chapter because of a program implemented by Scholarship Chairman Michael Nelson that focused on academic performance. "It is the personalized dynamic of this system which has encouraged us, both as individuals and as a group, to raise our academic standard," Francis says.

Among the 16 athletic teams at UTM, nine of the teams had GPAs that were a 3.0 or higher.

The men's cross country team and the women's volleyball team performed the highest among the athletic teams.

"These results serve as evidence of the emphasis placed on

Sport	GPA	
Cross Country	3.58	Men
Volleyball	3.48	Women
Tennis	3.40	Women
Cross Country	3.39	Women
Men's Tennis	3.32	Men
Soccer	3.32	Women
Softball	3.31	Women
Cheerleaders	3.26	Women
Women's Rifle	3.15	Women
— All Athlete	2.96	
Golf	2.89	Men
Baseball	2.89	Men
Basketball	2.80	Women
Rodeo	2.78	Coed
Football	2.74	Men
Mixed Rifle	2.60	Coed
Basketball	2.26	Men
Sorority	GPA	
Chi Omega	3.27	PHC
Alpha Delta Pi	3.19	PHC
Alpha Omicron Pi	3.11	PHC
— All Sorority	3.10	
Gamma Kappa Pi	3.03	Ind.
Alpha Kappa Alpha	3.00	NPHC
— All Female	2.95	
Zeta Tau Alpha	2.91	PHC
Delta Sigma Theta	2.83	NPHC
Zeta Phi Beta	2.74	NPHC
Fraternity	GPA	
Sigma Chi	3.16	IFC
Sigma Phi Epsilon	2.98	IFC
Alpha Gamma Rho	2.96	IFC
Phi Sigma Kappa	2.87	IFC
Alpha Tau Omega	2.80	IFC
— All Fraternity	2.79	
— All Male	2.78	
Kappa Alpha Order	2.76	IFC
Pi Kappa Alpha	2.63	IFC
Sigma Alpha Epsilon	2.60	IFC
Kappa Alpha Psi	2.46	NPHC
Omega Psi Phi	2.45	NPHC
Phi Beta Sigma	2.31	NPHC

Key:
PHC - Pan-Hellenic Council
IFC - Interfraternal Council
NPHC - National Pan-Hellenic Council
Ind. - Independent

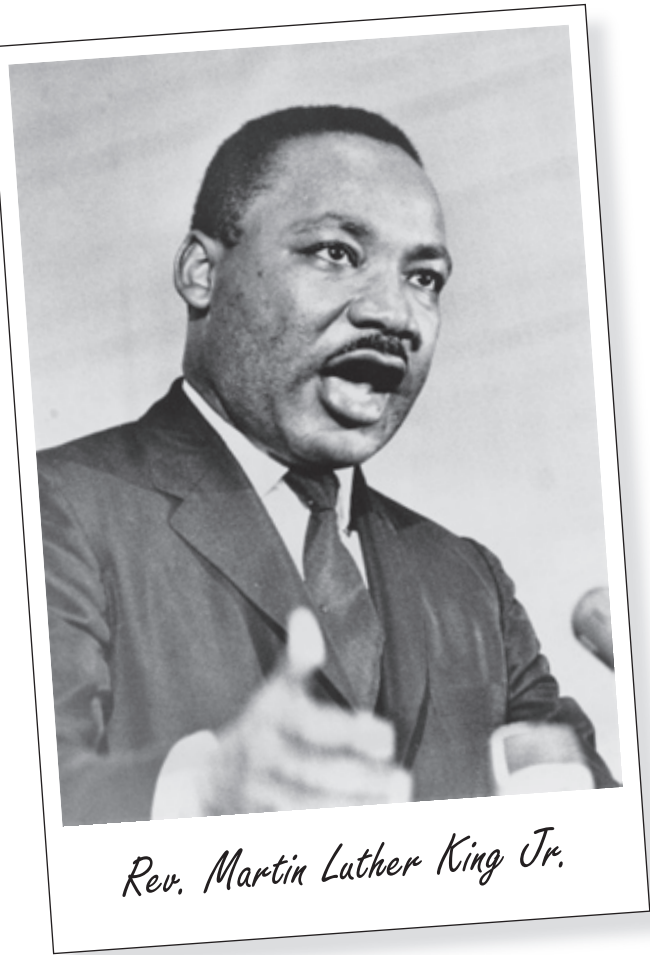
Sources:
UTM Sports Information, Office of Greek Life

academic success by our coaches and athletics staff," Dr. Nell Gullett, UTM's faculty athletic representative said.

Both greeks and athletes performed higher than the all-male grade GPA of 2.78 when looking at averages in each category. Athletes and sorority members performed higher than the all-female average GPA of 2.95.

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

Stephen Yeargin
Executive Editor



Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19 — A Candlelight Ceremony in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the Centennial Circle between Humanities and Gooch.

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 — Free showing of *Imitation of Life* (1959 version) in the Watkins Auditorium.

7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 — Free showing of a movie based in Africa, *Hotel Rwanda* or *The Constant Gardener* (depending on availability), in the Watkins Auditorium.

Twenty years ago Monday, the nation honored civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. UTM is celebrating the occasion with demonstrations and movie showings.

President Ronald Reagan signed the bill to create the holiday on Nov. 2, 1983. It was observed for the first time Jan. 20, 1986.

The day is marked by demonstrations for peace, social justice and racial and class equality, as well as a national day of volunteer community service.

This year's theme promoted by the government-funded Corporation for National & Community Service is "Make it a Day On, Not a Day Off," calling on citizens to spend time working to improve their communities.

"We encourage all Americans to make the King Holiday a day on, not a day off," said David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Dr. King once said, 'Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve.' The King Holiday affords the ideal opportunity to remember the legacy of a great American by being one yourself."

UTM's Office of Minority Affairs, the Harold Conner Scholars and the Black Student Association are sponsoring a candlelight ceremony in honor of King at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, in Centennial Circle. The public is invited to attend.

In February, the Office of Minority Affairs will be showing two of three selected films in Watkins Auditorium. Both movies begin at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 and 8.

For more information, contact Teresa Woody, director of the Office of Minority Affairs, at (731) 881-7282 or twoody@utm.edu.

UTM sophomore Biology major dies during holiday break

Staff Reports

Justin Pickard, 19, of Toone, died Sunday, December 11, 2005 at Bolivar General Hospital.

He was born August 11, 1986 in Jackson, Tenn., the son of David Thomas Pickard and Connie Ruth Hooper Pickard of Toone where he was raised.

Justin graduated from Bolivar Central High School in 2004 where he played on the golf team. He was currently on the Dean's list as an honor student at UTM where he was a sophomore Biology major.

"The university extends its sympathies to the Pickard family in their loss," said Bud Grimes, director of University Relations. "We grieve with them for their son's death."

Grimes said that David Belote, interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, attended the funeral as a representative for the university.

Justin worked at Toone Lumber



Pickard

Company during his summer breaks since he was 12 years old.

He loved to fish, hunt, and play video games and also loved sports and watching ESPN. He was an avid Red Sox fan and baseball memorabilia collector.

Justin was a member of Maple Springs Baptist Church.

Services were 1:00 PM Thursday, December 15, 2005 at Shackelford Funeral Directors chapel in Bolivar with Mark McSwain and David Cooper officiating. Burial was in Vernon Cemetery near Cloverport.

In addition to his parents, he is

survived by a half-sister, Melissa Heidelberg of Medina; his maternal grandmother, Margaret Hooper of Toone; his girlfriend, Dani Avent of Whiteville and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Malcolm Hooper and his paternal grandparents, Thurmond "Buck" and Evelyn Pickard.

Memorials may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Our View

Editorial: Campus does not ‘sleep’ during breaks

While most students were enjoying (and we use that word loosely) time with family over the break, the campus was alive with activity. While not all of them are worth a full news story, here are some highlights.

Computer Services

The people with UTM Information Technology Services have recently completed the migration from the old “MARS” server in favor of more user-friendly student services. A big thanks for never having to listen to someone from another school crack a planet joke when we give out our student email addresses and Web sites.

Minority Affairs

With the 20 year anniversary of the first observed Martin Luther King Day, it is fitting that UTM has decided to mark the occasion with a candlelight vigil, honoring those that

fought for the civil rights we take for granted today. We hope the spirit of unity can carry us far beyond a demonstration to the side of the UC.

Athletics

The departure of head coach Matt Griffin and the assistant coach corps shocked all of us. UTM did the right thing by moving quickly to replace him with UT Chattanooga assistant Jason Simpson. Here’s to hoping his program garners respect for his player’s actions on the field, in the classroom and in their personal time.

Construction Crews

Hard at work this winter break were men and women contractors finishing up projects. University Villages, the Gooch Hall renovations and work on Humanities should all be wrapping up in the next few days. Thank you for keeping the inconveniences to a minimum.

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Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole. Editorials are written by members of the Editorial Board, with contributions from other students, campus administrators or community members on an as-issue basis. The Pacer invites student organizations to submit press releases at least two weeks ahead of an event. We cannot guarantee the publication of any submitted letter, release or news story.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be e-mailed to pacer@utm.edu or presented at our weekly staff meetings, held at 5:15 p.m. every Tuesday during the semester. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please contact the Executive Editor to arrange a separate meeting.

The Pacer welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor at 314 Gooch Hall, Martin, TN 38238, through e-mail at pacer@utm.edu or via our Web site at http://pacer.utm.edu/write/. Letters to the Editor should be no longer than 250 words. Letters must be signed and contain the name, major and hometown of the author, as well as contact information. All submissions will be edited for grammar, spelling and brevity. Publication preference will be given to letters of less than 250 words. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Columns or Guest Commentaries should be no longer than 750 words and will require a photo of the author. Publication is based on relevance and quality of the issue and publication is subject to the discretion of the Viewpoints Editor and the Executive Editor. Our readers may also add their comments on The Pacer Online Edition at http://pacer.utm.edu/discuss/.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

This newspaper is printed every Tuesday during the semester. Our press run ranges from 3,000 to 4,000 copies depending on the edition. The University of Tennessee at Martin earmarks \$3.60 per enrolled student to pay for staff salaries and overhead costs of running our office. The cost of printing the newspaper is covered by advertising revenue.



Tax season begins with many options



Kenetra Robertson
Guest Columnist

Tax season is now underway and it is very important that young adults understand how to file their taxes. There are several ways in which you can file your taxes, but some ways can get you that highly anticipated refund faster.

In the past you could not file your taxes without having your W2's in hand, but now it is possible to file with your last check stub of the year. There are also many companies such as H & R Block and Jackson Hewitt that can help with tax preparations.

When you go in to have your taxes prepared, you must bring in your W2's, and if you are claiming

any dependents, you must bring in their Social Security numbers. A small fee will be charged for filing depending on your earned income credit, how many dependents you have, and other issues that the tax preparer will discuss with you.

If you feel more comfortable preparing your own taxes, you could choose to go to the local library and fill out a paper form and

mail it in. You could have your refund in as little as six weeks or less. According to www.irs.gov, more and more Americans are choosing e-file, which lets them electronically file an accurate tax return or get an extension of time to file without sending any papers to the Internal Revenue Service. You could receive your refund in as little as two weeks. Your refund can also be deposited into your checking account if you want them to do so. New program enhancements allow you to begin a refund trace online if you have not received your check within 28 days from the original IRS mailing date.

Some taxpayers also choose to file their taxes themselves by using an online tax preparation site such as www.taxbrain.com. The online services have tutorials for new taxpayers, and they also check for extra deductions that might have been overlooked by the taxpayer.

It is also possible to get your refund the next day if you allow a tax preparation company to file your taxes for you, but the company will deduct some bank fees from your refund.

The last day to file taxes this year will be April 17, because of the Easter holiday.

Don't let winter woes get you down



Elizabeth Watts
Viewpoints Editor

I know that people might think I'm crazy, but I'm glad to be back at school. All my friends live hours away and there's only so much you can do in my hometown.

A lot of people get the "blahs" in the winter. The winter season itself is depressing. The weather is (supposed to be) cold, the sun sets early, and after the holidays, you end up thinking, "Now what?"

If that's not enough, students realize that the end of the holiday season means that school will be starting soon. Want something even more depressing? After looking at the calendar, students find that their next vacation isn't until spring break.

So how do you beat the winter blahs? Since I'm not a psychiatrist, I did a little research on the Internet.

On momscape.com, it says, "Don't pack away all your Christmas decorations. Leave a few around the house as a reminder of the spirit of Christmas." I wouldn't leave your three-

story inflatable snowman in the front yard, but leaving out a little Christmas decoration might not be a bad idea.

It's already a New Year's resolution, so why not exercise. Not only will exercising help you lose that inch, but it will also raise your mood. The weather in Martin has been perfect for exercising outdoors.

WebMD.com says, "... Not only can your physical well-being be improved through activity, but symptoms of depression, tension, and anger — all of which may be more common during this season — can also be minimized through daily physical activity."

Students might feel down because they're away from their family after spending a month surrounded by

loved ones.

What can you do to make yourself feel less lonely? Get together with your friends and talk about all the great things that happened over the break.

Another idea is to celebrate the holidays with your friends when you get back to school. Students celebrate the holidays with their family, but hardly ever get to celebrate with their friends. Who cares if you're having a Christmas party in the middle of January? As long as you're having fun, then what's the big deal?

The funniest thing I heard was a group of friends throwing a big exchange party. Every year, students always get one present that they don't need or want.

Friends get together and swap gifts. You might find something that you want, but your friend getting rid of it. So your friend gives you the present that she didn't want and finds something to replace the unwanted gift.

This way, everyone is happy with what they get, it didn't cost anything, and you have a great time with your friends.

The main thing to remember is that when you've got the blahs, it's important to surround yourself with friends. Whatever you're feeling won't seem so bad if you have someone there to help you out.

The winter months are always hard for people. Even if you're feeling a bit sad, just remember that it's only a few more months until spring. No more grey skies or cold wind, and the spring season means spring break.

As always, if you feel like you can't shake the depression you're in, go find someone professional to help you. Your feelings shouldn't affect you so much that you can't function.

For those of you who are counting, spring break is March 13. That's only a little over 50 days away. You've got to have something to look forward to, right?

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Letters to the Editor

Alumnus says thank you to UTM athletes

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to the many UTM student athletes who volunteered their time with our 21st annual Can Caravan.

This canned food drive is coordinated through each school in Weakley County by WCMT Radio.

Each year thousands of pounds of food are collected at each school and taken to Santa's Village.

This year Weakley County students donated over 12,000 pounds of food.

Several student athletes from UTM helped us gather, load and sort all the

food. Their assistance makes this annual event a huge success.

We would also like to commend Assistant Athletics Director Danelle Fabianich and UT Martin Golf Coach Jerry Carpenter. These two have gone well above and beyond volunteering with Can Caravan for the past three years. From organizing the student volunteers to heavy lifting and driving their own vehicles, their help each year is priceless.

Misty Menees
Community Member
WCMT Radio 101.3 FM
Martin, TN

Drama not needed in confirmation hearings



Kevin Teets
Senior Reporter

It's the only time when a judge enters the room that no one stands up. The confirmation hearings for Supreme Court justices are failing America and perhaps it's time someone stand up for a different process.

Anyone with an interest in politics or national news would know that last week Judge Samuel Alito sat through the confirmation hearings in the Senate. In all likelihood, Alito will be confirmed by the Judiciary Committee and in the Senate in what is expected to be a complete party-line vote. The Democrats will have virtually no chance of a filibuster and Alito will soon be sitting on the

bench of our highest court. Regardless of my personal views on Alito, I think the confirmation hearings have become nothing more than a war room for media frenzy and political dramatization.

The networks were saying that Alito would be getting "grilled." Other terms like "roasted" were being used. The photographers and reporters crammed in the committee room and waited for the battle that

would take place. Armed with talking points and often inaccurate facts, senators on both sides of the aisle were certain to deliver what the media was expecting. In some cases, the questioning that Alito was undergoing seemed completely irrelevant to whether he would make a good justice. And, didn't the McCain anti-torture amendment on interrogation pass?

We are the generation of technology from iPods to wire taps. We should be concerned about our economy and concerned about whether Fourth Amendment rights are being jeopardized. Surely there's more to these hearings than arguing whether

judicial precedence should be overturned. I also think it was very shortsighted by one senator to suggest that Roe vs. Wade has merit on being overturned simply because Plessy vs. Ferguson was overturned.

We need a better way of evaluating whether justices should be on the Supreme Court, one that doesn't involve political dramatization. We should avoid taking justices through the low slums of unproductive committee hearings in order to get them to the high court of the land.

Another novel idea: He who does not follow the law should not make judicial appointments.

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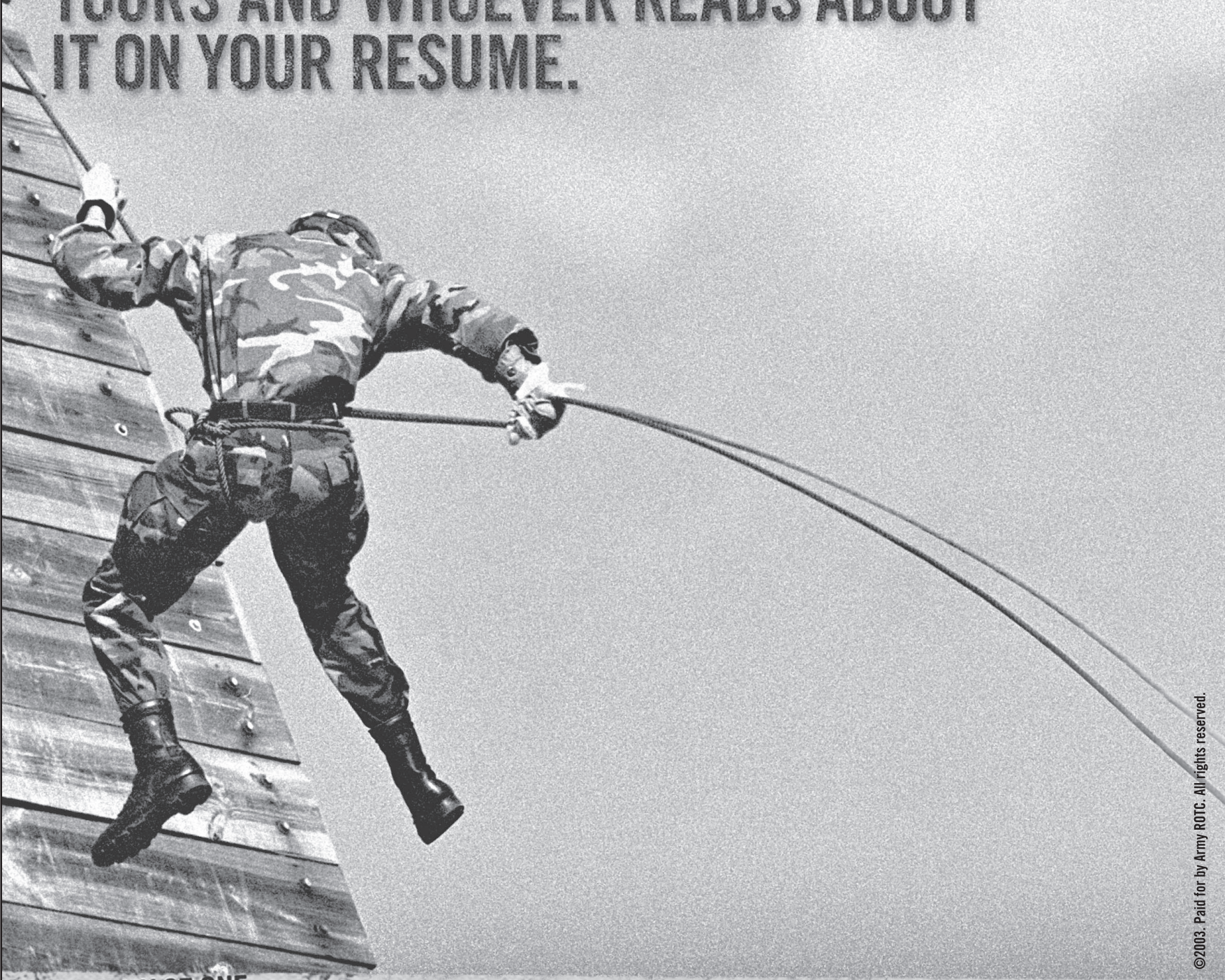
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2005 admission application numbers show significant gains

Jay Baker
Asst. Section Editor

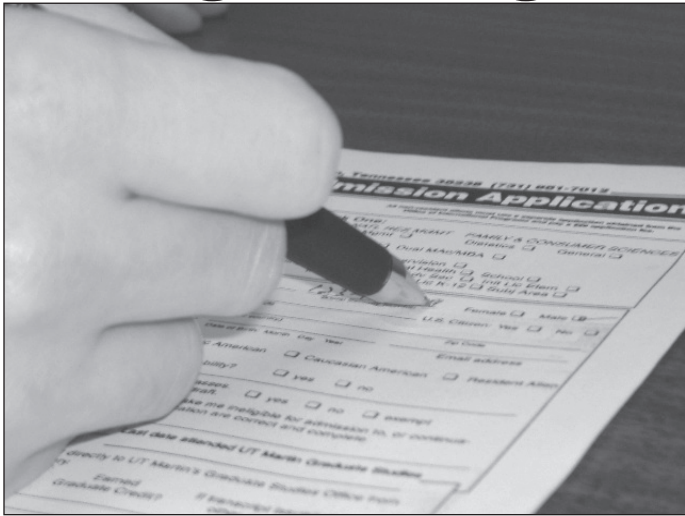
UTM applications for admission have increased 11 percent for fall and summer enrollment compared to the same period last year, according to the Office of Admissions.

A recent office of admissions report showed that as of Jan. 1, 2006, 1,428 students had applied for summer and fall enrollment, an increase of nearly 150 applications from that date in 2005.

2005 was the third consecutive year that there has been an increase in applications. Enrollment has also been at record levels for the past four years.

Citing recent opportunities for students to attend college, Judy Rayburn, director of admissions, said, "There's no doubt the Tennessee HOPE Lottery Scholarship program is playing a significant role in students choosing to attend UTM."

Rayburn also gave other possible reasons more students are choosing UTM. "We think students tend to make their decisions based on a school's atmosphere. Students are looking for more personal attention.



They are looking at the size of the university and the opportunity to be involved in campus activities," said Rayburn. She said staying close to home and cost of tuition were also factors in the decisions of students.

"The new apartment-style housing also is very attractive to incoming freshmen," Rayburn added.

"Preliminary reports show UTM had the largest percentage increase of any Tennessee public university last year. We were the only public four-year university to receive the maximum 100 points score on the THEC (Tennessee Higher Education Commission) performance funding measure," said Chancellor Nick

Dunagan.

"We are becoming the university of choice for students and parents who want a great undergraduate education on a moderately-sized campus in a safe environment," added Dunagan.

The increasing application and enrollment numbers coincide with UTM's improved rankings in the 2006 edition of "America's Best Colleges" complied by the *U.S. News and World Report* magazine. UTM moved up three spots from 2005's 23rd place to tie for 20th place with the University of North Florida. in the same category this year.

Revelle gives grads 'three stones'

Staff Reports

Dr. Mike Revelle, an emergency room physician from Jackson and UTM alumnus, delivered the fall commencement address Dec. 17.

Revelle challenged graduates to "find stones for building a firm foundation for life," and he highlighted three "stones" he thought UTM graduates would need in life: the value of wisdom, the virtue of friendship and the privilege of circumstance.

Revelle then elaborated on each of the three "stones" he deemed important and how to use them as a foundation for success.

"The reason you are here today," Revelle told graduates, "is that you, your parents, your spouse or someone gave up time, money and hard work to arrive at this milestone."

Revelle graduated from



Dr. Mike Revelle gives the commencement address at UTM's fall graduation Dec. 17. Revelle, a 1993 UTM graduate, is an accomplished Jackson physician.

UTM in 1993 with a bachelor's degree and agriculture. He received his doctor of medicine from UT Memphis in 1999. He was recently awarded the UTM

Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

About 445 graduates were conferred with degrees.

Realignment to boost ag research

Jay Baker
Asst. Section Editor

A recent realignment of agriculture resources aims to further educational opportunities for UTM students and help to protect West Tennessee's livestock industry.

The realignment will transfer the facilities of the UT Experiment Station's Martin Research and Education Center to UTM's Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"This realignment of the Martin research station is positive for the university and also for West Tennessee agriculture. We believe

that our research efforts can now be more focused at our Milan and Jackson Experiment Stations and the experiential learning for UTM students will be greatly enhanced," said Mitchell.

UTM will now gain the remaining 400 acres of a 600-acre farm adjacent to the campus as port of its Agriculture and Natural Resources Teaching Center.

Part of the realignment includes the creation of the West Tennessee Diagnostic Laboratory which will partner with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

The Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, a \$5 million appro-

priation for farm programs in this year's state budget, will fund the laboratory partnership.

The following changes went into effect Jan. 1:

- The granary at the Swine Research Facility will be converted into the West Tennessee Diagnostic Laboratory. It is expected to be operational within 12 months.

- The Swine Research Facility will continue to house a reduced number of swine that will be used in the UTM animal science program.

- The cropland will be utilized in the future for large-scale crop plants.

Police Report

The information contained in this report is taken directly from public records distributed by the UTM Department of Public Safety. DPS can be contacted by calling (731) 881-7777.

7:30 a.m., Dec. 12

Lot 14

A vehicle was towed due to an excessive number of parking tickets.

8:24 a.m., Dec. 12

McCord Hall

Report of stolen property from a dorm room. Investigation continues.

8:30 a.m., Dec. 12

Football Office

Report of vandalism to the building. Investigation continues.

2:31 p.m., Dec. 12

Lot 19

Report of some property stolen from a vehicle. Investigation continues.

4:49 p.m., Dec. 12

UC

Report of a person having a seizure. Individual treated at the scene and transferred to the hospital by EMS.

9:04 p.m., Dec. 12

University Village

Report of possible contraband in an apartment. Investigation revealed no contraband.

9:52 p.m., Dec. 12

University Courts

Report of a noise disturbance. Investigation revealed the incident to be a possible prank.

11:29 a.m., Dec. 13

University St.

Jeremy Harris issued a citation for a crosswalk violation.

12:57 a.m., Dec. 14

Pacer Manor

Assisted MPD with a theft involving university property. Investigation continues.

8:03 a.m., Dec. 14

University St.

Christie Harris was issued a citation for a crosswalk violation (City Court).

1:57 p.m., Dec. 14

Lot 4

A vehicle was towed due to an excessive number of parking tickets.

6:01 p.m., Dec. 14

Lot 4

Report of a subject being injured. Subject was treated on the scene by EMS and refused transport to the hospital.

8:00 p.m., Dec. 14

Browning Hall

Report of some property stolen from a dorm room. Investigation continues.

8:05 p.m., Dec. 14

Browning Hall

Report of some property stolen from a dorm room. Investigation continues.

12:25 p.m., Dec. 15

Browning Hall

Report of some property stolen from a dorm room. Investigation continues.

8:00 a.m., Dec. 16

University St.

Nancy Turnbo issued a citation for speeding (City Court).

3:18 p.m., Dec. 20

University Village

Report of a fire alarm sounding. Determined to be a false alarm.

1:57 p.m., Dec. 26

University St.

Muammer Aykin issued a citation for speeding (City Court).

12:48 p.m., Jan. 2

Clement Hall

Report of fire alarm sounding. Determined to be false alarm.

1:42 p.m., Jan. 3

Browning Hall

Report of some contraband found in a study room. Items collected and secured.

3:55 a.m., Jan. 4

Grove Apartments

Report of a subject having an allergic reaction to medication. Treated at the scene and transported to the hospital by EMS.

11:10 a.m., Jan. 4

Administration Bldg.

Subject reported the loss of some university keys. Report on file.

2:00 p.m., Jan. 4

Family Resource Center

Subject reported the loss of some university keys. Report on file.

4:10 p.m., Jan. 4

UTM Farm

Report of a grass fire. Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire. No reported damage.

12:52 p.m., Jan. 6

University St.

John E. Daniels and Milford White were issued citations for simple possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. Referred to General Sessions Court.

9:04 a.m., Jan. 6

University St.

Hilary K. Hawks was issued a citation for an expired license plate (City Court).

1:02 p.m., Jan. 7

Ag Pavilion

Report of a subject who had been injured. Subject treated at the scene and transported to the hospital by EMS.

8:41 a.m., Jan. 9

University St.

Casey S. Bell was issued a citation for speeding (City Court).

1:40 p.m., Jan. 9

University St.

Julie D. Morales was issued a citation for speeding (City Court).

3:48 p.m., Jan. 10

Administration Bldg.

Report of a subject who had fallen and injured his back. Treated on the scene by EMS. Subject referred transport to the hospital.

Campus Bulletin Board

The Pacer provides this space free of charge to campus clubs and organizations that wish to promote events or offerings. Items to appear in The Pacer's "Campus Bulletin Board" section must be submitted at least a week ahead of the event, either by e-mail to pacer_news@utm.edu or by dropping off a flier and press release to 314 Gooch Hall. Preference is given by event date closest to printing and by order received. Please note that submission does not necessarily guarantee printing. Call (731) 881-7780 for more information.

SABER meeting

SABER, UTM's student interest organization for sexual assault advocacy, will hold its first meeting of the semester at 6:30 tonight in UC 229.

Wednesday Forum

This week's Wednesday Forum, sponsored by Counseling and Career Services, will be held from noon to 1 p.m. tomorrow in the Skyhawk Cafeteria. The topic will be "To Have and to Hold: Keeping Your Lottery Scholarship."

Martin Luther King Jr. candlelight service

The Office of Minority Affairs, the Harold Conner Scholars and the BSA are sponsoring a candlelight cer-

emony in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. at 7 p.m. Thursday in Centennial Circle in the Quad.

Last day to add classes

The last day to add classes is Monday, Jan. 23. Next Monday is also the last day to drop classes with 100 percent refund. Classes will be administratively dropped if they are not confirmed by that date.

JARS

The Japanese Animation Research Society will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday in UC 229.

Nooners

SAC will be hosting "Nooners" tomorrow and Thurs-

day. Tomorrow, there will be key chains available, and Thursday, the Nooner will feature "Goofy IDs." The Nooners will be from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. both days in the UC Gameroom.

909 Comedy Series

This semester's first installment of the SAC 909 Comedy Series will feature James Smith, who will be performing at 9:09 p.m. Thursday in the Watkins Auditorium.

SAC Movie Night

SAC will hold a double feature movie night beginning at 7 p.m. Friday in the Watkins Auditorium. SAC will show *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* followed by *Four Brothers*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

pacer.utm.edu/entertainment/

Rachel Rogers, A&E Editor • E-mail: pacer_features@utm.edu

“Chronicles of Narnia” give readers something to rejoice about

Rachel Rogers
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Have you ever had any reason to get excited over mothballs? For those of you who saw “Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” over the holiday season, you may have noticed a few people in the audience getting excited over some of the oddest things. For example, when Lucy opens the wardrobe for the first time and two mothballs fall out, you might have noticed that someone down the aisle from you was dancing in their seat. If you’re not familiar with the story, here’s the rundown. The four Pevensie children — Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy — are living with their mother in England during World War II while their father is out fighting. During the middle of the night, bombs are dropped over the home in an air raid. This causes Mrs. Pevensie — and many other parents — to send their children out to live with others until the raids are over. Thus the Pevensie

children are sent out to live with the Professor, an eccentric, mysterious old man, and his stern housekeeper, Mrs. Macready. It’s a beautiful place with gardens and plenty of room to explore outside. The children decide to play hide-and-seek. It is while searching for the perfect hiding place that Lucy, the youngest, finds a huge wardrobe in a spare room. She quickly hides, making sure not to close herself in, of course. She pushes herself backwards through the fur coats, searching for the back of the wardrobe. But she never finds it. Instead, she finds herself in an entirely new world, covered in snow. Welcome to Narnia, a land where it is always winter and never Christmas. This is due to Jadis, otherwise known as the White Witch. Of course, she’s not really the leader of Narnia. But ever since Aslan, the Great Lion, has vanished, Narnia has been under her rule. But all that is about to change. According to an ancient prophecy, when two Sons of Adam and two

Daughters of Eve sit on the four thrones at Cair Paravel, the days of the White Witch will be over. Thus the children are thrown into the greatest adventure of their lives. With the help of their friends Mr. Tumnus, the Beavers and Aslan himself, they must defeat the White Witch and free the entire land. If the movie reminds you of “The Lord of the Rings,” that’s because the author, C.S. Lewis, happened to be good friends with J.R.R. Tolkien, the man behind “The Lord of the Rings”. In fact, it was Tolkien who led Lewis to Christianity, which is one of the main themes of the story. “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”, the first of the seven books in the Narnia series, was published in 1950. Fans of the book will be happy that the movie follows very closely to the books, hence the excitement over mothballs. With the movie still in the top ten after being out in theatres since Dec. 9, it’s a sure bet that we’ll see are from the land of Narnia soon.



Ginarrbrik (Kiran Shah) and the White Witch (Tilda Swinton) set out to chase down the Pevensie children.

The best – and worst – of 2005

Rachel Rogers
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Now that we are nearly a month into 2006, many of you are beginning to wonder what exactly was hot in the last year. Was that iPod worth it? Did you really need an XBOX 360? Was “King Kong” really the best movie? Well, my friends, let’s take a glimpse back into the past and see what was hot, and what was not. According to Rebecca Murray from about.com, 2005 was “a lousy year for movies”. Still, she managed to put together a list of the best movies for 2005. “Brokeback Mountain” tops the list, followed by “King Kong”, “Good Night, and Good Luck”, “Capote”, “The Constant Gardener”, “The Upside of Anger”, “Batman Begins”, “The 40 Year Old Virgin”, “Crash” and “Rent”. And then Murray does something she says is a first for her: puts together a “Worst of” list. These were her picks for the worst movies of 2005: “A Sound of Thunder”, “House of D”, “Lords of Dogtown”, “Undiscovered”, “The Island”, “Valiant”, “The Underclassman”, “Son of the Mask”, “Stealth” and “Dark Water”. What about TV? Did *Desperate Housewives* make the top pick for 2005? According to time.com, SciFi’s remake of *Battlestar Galactica* actually takes the prize for best TV show of 2005. This is followed by NBC’s *The Office*, Showtime’s *Weeds*, HBO’s *Sometimes in April*, Bravo’s *Project Runway*, MTV2’s *Wonder Showzen*, Comedy Central’s *Colbert Report*, CBS’s *How I Met Your Mother*, FOX’s *Prison Break* and a tie for the 10 spot between UPN’s *Everybody Hates Chris* and NBC’s *My Name is Earl*.

Of course, there were the gadgets that people stood in line for hours to get. BusinessWeek compiled a list of the 40 best products of 2005. Making there was onto that list were the following: the Nokia N90 cell phone, Nintendogs video game, the XBOX 360, Kodak EasyShare-One camera, Plantronics Discovery 640 Bluetooth headset, Sony’s Digital Music System, One-time-use Video Camrecorder, Apple iPod Nano, Atari Flashback 2 game console and SudaCare Shower Soothers tablets, among others. Don’t forget the music! AT billboard.com, you can check out what the hottest albums of the year were. My Morning Jacket leads the pack with *Z*, The Rolling Stones’ *A Bigger Bang* and M.I.A.’s *Arular* tie for second, *The New Pornographers* come in third with *Twin Cinema*, Common’s *Be* grabs the fourth spot, *The Woods* by Sleater-Kinney is number



“Brokeback Mountain”, XBOX 360’s, *Battlestar Galactica* and iPod Nanos were all big in 2005.

five, Sufjan Stevens’s *Illinois* is at number six, the Thelonicus Monk Quartet with John Coltrane’s *At Carnegie Hall* and Queens of the Stone Age *Lullabies to Paralyze* are tied at number seven, *Gimme Fiction* from Spoon is at number eight, *In Between Dreams* from Jack Johnson and *The Emancipation of Mimi* from Mariah Carey are sharing the number nine spot, and John Legend’s *Get Lifted* rounds out the list at number 10. As we look back on 2005, we can only hope that we can learn from our mistakes, and pray that out new XBOX 360 doesn’t overheat.

Are you looking for something to do?

- Tuesday, Jan. 17**
Classes Begin
High School Art Exhibition Opens

Wednesday, Jan. 18
SAC Noon Key Chains
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
UC Gameroom

Thursday, Jan. 19
SAC Noon Goofy ID’s
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
UC Gameroom

MLK Candlelight Service
7 p.m.
Centennial Circle

SAC 9:09 Comedy Series feat. James Smith
9:09 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium

Friday, Jan. 20
JARS meeting
6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
UC 229
- SAC Double Feature Movie feat. “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and “Four Brothers”**
7-11:55 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium

Midnight Basketball
10 p.m.
Elam Center

Saturday, Jan. 21
Midnight Basketball
12 p.m.-1 p.m.
Elam Center

Sunday, Jan. 22
Me, Myself and I Pageant
7-10 p.m.
Watkins Auditorium

Monday, Jan. 23
SAC Madden Tournament
6-10 p.m.
UC Gameroom



2006 Grammy nominations are here

Mariah Carey, John Legend and Kanye West lead the pack with eight nominations each

Rachel Rogers
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The nominations are in. The 2006 Grammys are less than a month away, and people are already wondering on who will win what this year. One of those who looks to have a big year is Mariah Carey. She, along with Kanye West and John Legend, is up for eight awards this year. Those nominations include Record of the Year for “We Belong Together”; Album of the Year for *The Emancipation of Mimi*; and Song of the Year for “We Belong Together”. So who else is up for the big awards? 50 Cent, Beyoncé Knowles, The Black Eyed Peas’ Will.i.am and Stevie Elliot, Alicia Keys, Bruce Springsteen, Gwen Stefani and U2 pulled in five, and Common, Destiny’s Child, Foo Fighters Gorillaz, Neptunes, Brad Paisley, Phil Tan and Gretchen Wilson have four. The General Field Category holds the biggest and most coveted awards: Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Album of the Year, and Best New Artist. This year, there are some big names who are hoping to bring those home. For Record of the Year: “We Belong Together” by Mariah Carey; “Feel Good, Inc.” by the Gorillaz; “Boulevard of Broken Dreams” by Green Day; “Hollaback Girl” by Gwen

Stefani; “Gold Digger” by Kanye West. For Album of the Year: *The Emancipation of Mimi* by Mariah Carey; *Chaos and Creation in the Backyard* by Paul McCartney; *Love. Angel. Music. Baby.* By Gwen Stefani; *How to Dismantle and Atomic Bomb* by U2; *Late Registration* by Kanye West. For Song of the Year: “Bless the Broken Road” by Rascal Flats; “Devils and Dust” by Bruce Springsteen; “Ordinary People” by John Legend; “Sometimes You Can’t Make it on Your Own” by U2; “We Belong Together” by Mariah Carey. For Best New Artist: Ciara, Fall Out Boy, Keane, John Legend, and SugarLand. In the Best Hard Rock Performance, Audioslave, Nine Inch Nails, Robert Plant, Queens of the Stone Age and System of a Down are all up for the bid. Fiona Apple, Kelly Clarkson, Sheryl Crow, Paul McCartney and Gwen Stefani are all hoping for the Best Pop Vocal Album. In the Best Rap Solo Performance, Common’s “Testify”, Eminem’s “Mockingbird”, 50 Cent’s “Disco Inferno”, Ludacris’s “Number One Spot”, T.I.’s “U Don’t Know Me”, and Kanye West’s “Gold Digger” all got a nod. And for all you country music lovers, here’s the nominees for Best Country Song: “Alcohol” by Brad Paisley, “All Jacked Up” by Gretchen Wilson, “Bless the Broken Road” by Rascal Flats, “I Hope” by the Dixie Chicks, And “I May Hate Myself in the Morning” by Lee Ann Womack. According to grammy.com, “a GRAMMY is awarded by The Recording Academy’s voting membership to honor excellence in the recording arts and sciences. It is truly a peer honor, awarded by and to artists and technical professionals for artistic or technical achievement, not sales or



Mariah Carey is shaping up to be this year’s ‘it’ girl at the GRAMMYS’ with eight nominations to her name. chart positions.” You can catch the 48 Annual Grammy Awards live on Wednesday, Feb 8 at 7 on CBS. For more information and a complete list of nominees, check out their website at www.grammy.com.



Big Ten foes give Skyhawk men big problems on road

Brad Hurt

Assistant Sports Editor

The Skyhawk men's basketball team took a break from early Ohio Valley Conference action to head to Big Ten country for its most challenging road trip of the season as they visited Purdue on December 28 and nationally-ranked Illinois on December 30.

The trip marked the seventh and eighth games in the Skyhawk program's history that the team has played against a Big Ten team.

The Skyhawks entered action with an 0-6 record against teams from that conference and saw that record drop to 0-8 after falling short against Purdue, 62-54, and being overmatched by Illinois, 84-46.

Against Purdue, the Skyhawks were able to calm their nerves in the second half after trailing 33-18 at the break. They began the game much like they began the game at Louisville, holding an early lead as large as 10-5 before the Boilermakers brought in four fresh players off the bench and claimed the lead for good.

Senior Cleve Woodfork stepped up in a huge way after the intermission, carrying the team with 17 second-half points after being held scoreless through the game's first 20 minutes.

Woodfork's performance and the team's accuracy from the free-throw line allowed the Skyhawks

to make a run in the second half. They connected on 17 of 19 attempts from the line in the game.

Also helping the upset-minded Skyhawks' cause was a 14-0 advantage in points off turnovers. They forced 20 Purdue turnovers while committing only 15 themselves.

Along with forcing turnovers, their defense held the Boilermakers to 32 percent shooting in the second half.

"I was really pleased with our defensive effort tonight," Skyhawk head coach Bret Campbell said.

Two nights after holding their own against Purdue, the Skyhawks faced much stiffer competition as they traveled to Champaign, Ill. to face fifth-ranked Illinois.

The atmosphere of Purdue's Mackey Arena, while more intimidating than that of the Elam Center, was nothing compared to the hostile crowd of over 16,000 that filled Illinois' Assembly Hall with a deafening decibel level throughout the game.

The crowd got into the game from the beginning as the Fighting Illini showed why they are one of the top teams in the nation.

Rich McBride opened the scoring with a three-pointer, which proved to be the start of an amazing shooting performance. McBride went on to connect on 7-of-10 three-point attempts for the game, including 6-of-8 in the first

half alone.

The threes accounted for all 21 of his points. The Skyhawks were harassed into committing 15 first-half turnovers.

To make matters worse, the Skyhawks shot only 18 percent from the floor and were held without a field goal until a three-pointer by Justin Flatt made the score 27-4 with 9:13 remaining in the first half.

On the other end of the floor, the Fighting Illini made 63 percent of their shot attempts, led by McBride's 6-of-9.

"They jumped up and made shots right away on us and then we couldn't stop the bleeding," Campbell said.

McBride's teammates were also impressed with the shooting touch of the junior guard.

"I think Rich has done a good job of playing defense, asserting himself, passing the ball, and now shooting the ball is coming in," said senior forward/center James Augustine. Augustine finished the game hitting 8-of-9 field goals for 19 points. He had a special game of his own as he pulled down his 854th career rebound in the first half to become the school's all-time leader.

The Skyhawks held Illinois' leading scorer, point guard Dee Brown, to five points. Brown still did plenty of damage by dishing out ten assists and hitting a three-pointer to end a 10-0 Skyhawk run to start the second half. His shot sparked a 17-5 Illinois run to push the lead to 72-32 with 9:32 remaining.

The road trip served as a homecoming for several Skyhawk players. Freshman point guard Spencer Harris, who is sitting out the rest of the 2005-06 season as



SPORTS INFORMATION

Juniors Will Lewis (left) and McKale Jones guard the Purdue player in the Skyhawks game in West Lafayette, Ind. on Dec. 28.

a redshirt, is a native of Bluffton, Ind. Forward Will Lewis is a native of Fort Wayne, Ind., while guard Jared Newson hails from

Belleville, Ill. Newson scored 13 points and pulled down eight rebounds in the Skyhawks' loss at Illinois.

Skyhawk women unable to collar Lady Bulldogs at home



SPORTS INFORMATION

Sophomore Crystall Fuller guards the Georgia player during the Skyhawks' loss on Dec. 30.

Amy Eddings
Sports Editor

Two points was as close as the Skyhawks would come to No. 17 Georgia in their game on Dec. 30 in the Elam Center. The Skyhawks ultimately fell to the Lady Bulldogs, 81-47.

The games started with Georgia going on a 8-0 run, holding the Skyhawks scoreless for the first 3:15 of the half.

UTM's first points came off a 3-pointer, the only one they would make in the first half, by junior guard Kimberly Cox, putting the score at 8-3.

The Skyhawks then answered back going on an 8-2 point run of their own to pull to within two with 11:43 left in the first half.

The Lady Bulldogs started to pull away and outscored the Skyhawks 26-10 in the last 10 minutes.

Headed into the break, UTM was shooting just over 33 percent from the field to UGA's 42-plus percent and the Skyhawks found themselves facing a 38-18 deficit going into the second half.

The Skyhawks scored just eight points in the paint in the first and no second chance points to Georgia's 10.

Junior forward Andrieka Jackson put the first points on the board in the second half, making one-of-two free throws. Junior forward Deina Willingham was responsible for the next points for the Skyhawks with a free-throw and a jumper to put the score at 22-40.

The Skyhawks were never able to come closer than the 18 point difference that they faced just a minute and a half into the second.

Turnovers proved to be a problem for the Skyhawks, giving up the ball nine times

in each half, which more than doubled the Lady Bulldogs total of eight for the whole game.

The Skyhawks had two players finish in double digits: Jackson with 18 and Cox with 10. Jackson also tied with Willingham as the team's leading rebounder with 9 each, just one shy of giving Jackson the double-double.

The Lady Bulldogs also each had two players ending in double digits. Leading scorer for UGA was guard Cori Chambers with 29. Chambers went 8-of-9 from the field and was 6-of-8 from behind the three point line. Guard Sherrill Baker was the other UGA player to finish above 10 with 21 points.

UTM managed to out-rebound Georgia 29-22.

From the field, the Skyhawks shot almost 36 percent, 30 percent from the three-point line, and 56 per-

cent at the free-throw line.

Georgia was nearly 50 percent from the field, 38.5 percent on three-pointers and an impressive 77.8 percent from the stripe.

The loss, combined with the Skyhawks record in conference over the break, puts the women's team at 5-9 overall, and 3-4 in the OVC. UTM currently sits in seventh place in the OVC.

They return to action 5:30 on Thursday night in Clarks-ville where they take on the Lady Govs of Austin Peay who are sixth in the conference as of Monday.

After dropping six games straight, APSU is currently on a 7-game winning streak which includes a 61-49 victory over the Skyhawks in Martin on Jan. 2.

UTM needs the victory over APSU to put themselves back in contention for the postseason as only the top six teams make the tourney.

Football signs Chattanooga assistant as new head coach

UTC offensive coordinator takes over as coach for the Skyhawks, filling the vacancy left by Matt Griffin

UTM Sports Information

Jason Simpson, offensive coordinator at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for the past three years, was named head football coach at the UTM on Dec. 21, 2005.

The announcement was made by Phil Dane, UTM director of inter-collegiate athletics, at a news conference in the Bob Carroll Football Building.

Simpson was instrumental in the resurgence of the UTC football program. After several losing seasons, UTC posted a 6-5 record this season in the Southern Conference, including a win over OVC member, Jacksonville State University.

Simpson also coached for three years in the Southland Conference at Texas State University in San Marcos.

"Our university has experienced many positives this year, including a winning (6-5) football season," said Dr. Nick Dunagan, UTM chan-

cellor. "I strongly believe that Jason will not only continue but also build on this momentum. He is an outstanding young man who will make us proud to be Skyhawks. Thanks to Phil Dane for his quick action on this important position."

Dane said that Simpson quickly surfaced as a top choice for the position, which became open after Matt Griffin resigned to accept the head football coach's job at Murray State University.

"Jason brings great experience to [UTM] and comes to us with the highest recommendation from some outstanding people in this profession, including Todd Berry, who many of our fans know and respect," said Dane.

Berry, the current offensive coordinator at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and former Army head coach, is a former offensive coordinator at UTM.

"In addition to several years of experience at the I-AA level," Dane

said, "he (Simpson) is already familiar with our recruiting region because of his years at UTC, where he had specific recruiting responsibility for Tenn. and Miss. Finally, Jason's personal values and philosophies toward student-athletes are very consistent with values in our athletics mission statement."

Simpson said that he and his family are "really looking forward to joining the community here in Martin." He described factors already in place at the university for future football success.

"First of all, I want to compliment the previous staff and the players on having the winning record," Simpson said. "There's been a foundation that's been put in place here, and fortunately I've been given the opportunity to take that foundation and move forward."

Simpson and his wife, Julie, have a son and a daughter: Ty, 3 years, and Emma, 9 months.



SPORTS INFORMATION

New head football coach Jason Simpson addresses the media in a news conference announcing his hiring on Dec. 21, 2005. Simpson joins the Skyhawks after helping UTC post a 6-5 record last season.

Skyhawk basketball vs. OVC opponents over break

Women's Results (Through 1/14/06)

UTM vs. Austin Peay L, 61-49

Leading Scorer: UTM- Willingham, 17; Jackson, 17
APSU- Reeves, 20
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Willingham*, 14
APSU- Haynes, 9

UTM vs. Samford W, 58-50

Leading Scorer: UTM- Jackson, 20
SAM- Munday, 16
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Willingham, 9
SAM- C. Smith, 5

UTM @ Tennessee State W, 62-56

Leading Scorer: UTM- Jackson, 20
TSU- Okafor, 12
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Willingham*, 11
TSU- Okafor, 10

UTM @ Eastern Illinois L, 67-58

Leading Scorer: UTM- Jackson, 16
EIU- Sparks, 30
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Willingham, 7
EIU- Sparks, 8

UTM vs. Morehead State L, 58-48

Leading Scorer: UTM- Jackson, 18
MOR- Gearhart, 20
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Willingham, 12
MOR- White, 7; Brown, 7

(*double-double)

Men's Results

UTM vs. Austin Peay W, 84-75

Leading Scorer: UTM- Kelly, 15; Woodfork, 15
APSU- Hampton, 28
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Woodfork*, 11
APSU- Hampton, 8

UTM vs. Samford L, 79-65

Leading Scorer: UTM- Newson, 20
SAM- J. Robert Merritt, 22
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Newson, 7
SAM- Smith, 6

UTM @ Tennessee State L, 85-82

Leading Scorer: UTM- Newson, 20
TSU- Arnold, 21
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Thompson, 8
TSU- Grant, 6; Turner, 6

UTM @ Eastern Illinois L, 80-70 (OT)

Leading Scorer: UTM- Newson, 16; Tolliver, 16
EIU- Gomes, 23
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Lewis, 10
EIU- Tandy, 12

UTM vs. Morehead State W, 71-66 (OT)

Leading Scorer: UTM- Newson, 18
MOR- Ballard, 20
Leading Rebounder: UTM- Thompson, 8
MOR- Williams, 10

Griffin Leaves: Continued from Cover

Before Griffin's visit to Murray State, Dunagan and Phil Dane, the athletics director, decided to increase Griffin's salary to \$92,000.

"We made an attempt to compete with Murray State's financial offer to Matt, but I think we did all we could within the principles of our mission and other equity issues that must be considered," Dane said.

The chancellor agreed

with Dane. "We have a list of ongoing priorities at [UTM] that we must meet and that was the best we could do," Dunagan said. "While we regret losing Matt we will go forward with educating young men and women here at [UTM]."

"We intend to recruit a coach who will continue the momentum that we currently have and the 2006 season will be just as productive as the 2005 season," the chancellor said.

UTM finished the 2005 season with a 6-5 overall record and a 4-4 won-loss record in the Ohio Valley Conference. The Skyhawks closed out the season with a 49-20 victory over Murray State. The 6-5 worksheet was the best record for the Skyhawks since 1993.

"The fact that Coach Griffin helped move our program forward will convince a lot of coaches that [UTM] can win in the OVC," Dane said.

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